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Opening of new elementary schools in South Kanara district.

* 1118 *Q.*—SRI K. VENKATRAMANA GOWDA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have ordered prohibiting the opening of new elementary schools or the employment of additional teachers in the existing schools by the South Kanara District Board;

(*b*) if so, why; and

(*c*) the steps taken by the Government to provide schools for the schoolless villages in the educationally backward Malanad areas in accordance with the answer given to starred question No. 1097 on 27th July 1953?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" (*a*) & (*b*) While passing orders on the Elementary Education Budget of the South Kanara District Board for 1952–53, the Government asked the district board to defer proposals for the appointment of additional teachers in some of its elementary schools and for the opening of new schools in schoolless centres, as the district board did not have sufficient funds even to pay regularly the salaries of teachers in the existing schools and as the financial position of Government would not permit the payment of any special subsidy to the district board on such schemes. They have, however, permitted the district board to employ ten additional teachers as the President, District Board, represented that they were absolutely necessary.

" (*c*) The Government sanctioned the opening, in the year 1953–54 of four new elementary schools in Malanad area, South Kanara district, and three lower elementary schools were permitted to be converted into Higher Elementary schools. These schools were exempted from the efficiency tests regarding minimum attendance and standards."

Names of major and minor panchayats in Vriddhachalam taluk.

* 1119 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of (1) major panchayats and (2) minor panchayats in Vriddhachalam taluk; and

(*b*) the strength of each panchayat board?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI:—" Under the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, panchayats have been classified as classes I and II which roughly correspond to 'Major' and 'Minor' under the former Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. A statement[a] showing the names and strength of class I and class II panchayats in the Vridhachalam taluk of the South Arcot district is placed on the table of the House."

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on page 82 infra.

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SRI M. KATTIMUTHU :—" விருத்தாஜலம் தாலூக்காவில் இன்னும் ஆனேக பெரிய பெரிய கிராமங்களுக்கெல்லாம் பஞ்சாயத்து சபை வேண்டுமென்று அவர்களே விண்ணப்பம் செய்துகொண்டிருந்தும் அங்கெல்லாம் பஞ்சாயத்து சபை ஏற்படுத்தப்படவில்லை என்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரியுமா? இனிமேலாவது அம்மாதிரி விண்ணப்பங்கள் வந்தால் அவைகளை உடனடியாகக் கவனித்து ஆவன சர்க்கார் செய்யுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Yes, Sir, it will be considered."

Clearance of silt in Nanthan channel in Gingee taluk.

* 1120 Q.—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to extend the clearance of silt in Nanthan channel beyond Gangavaram in Gingee taluk, South Arcot district? 12 noon

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The work of special repairs and improvements to the Nandan channel at an estimated cost of Rs. 25,200 was taken up under the Grow More Food scheme and completed recently. Silt in the channel bed from M. 0/7—450 to 2/2 was also cleared under this scheme. There is no proposal for further clearance of silt in the channel now."

Deputation of persons by the Chief Engineer, P.W.D., for work in the Neiveli Lignite Mines Project.

* 1121 Q.—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons recommended or deputed by the Chief Engineer, P.W.D., Madras, for work in the Neiveli Lignite Mines Project ; and

(b) the nature of work allotted to them in the Lignite Mines?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) 18, Sir.

" (b) A list[a] giving the required information is placed on the table of the House."

Grant of scholarships to Harijan students.

* 1122 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum from the Harijan members of the Legislative Assembly, dated 11th January 1954 regarding the allotment of additional residential scholarships and boarding grants for the Harijan students studying in the high schools ;

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[a] Printed as Appendix VI on page 83 infra.